**February 25, 2018 “A Fragrant Aroma” Ephesians 5:1-7**

Paul, when he was writing this letter to the Church in Ephesus understood a great deal of the society in which this Church existed. We spoke previously of the decadence of the general atmosphere in Ephesus due primarily to the worship of Diana whose temple resided in Ephesus.

I was thinking about that society this week as I was preparing this message and I thought how hard it must have been for those folks to live a Christian life in the midst of a pagan world. I then thought how hard it would be for my grandparents to understand our society today. I do not think they could have possibly imagined someone going into a school house and killing a number of students. I do not think they could have possibly imagined our divorce rate in America today. I do not think they could have imagined that more children are born to single mothers in many places in our country today than those born into nuclear families. They certainly could not understand so-called “gay marriage” nor could they have possibly understood that refusing to make a cake for someone could end up in the Supreme Court.

Yet into this society in which we currently are living, you and I are called to live an exemplary life. A life that stands head and shoulders above the swamp of the so-called values of this world.

Paul, in helping the Ephesians, to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you were called” wrote the last three chapters of Ephesians exhorting them with example after example of how live in a sinful world.

Note the pattern that Paul gives the Church

1. Be imitators of God
   1. Why?
      1. You are the children of God
         1. I John 3:1-3
            1. “Now we ***Are the children of God”***
            2. This is the present state of every believer
   2. Herein lies the key to understanding how we can live in this sinful world
2. “Walk in love”
   1. Why would the Holy Spirit say that to the Church?
      1. Shouldn’t it be obvious that is how we are to live?
         1. Oftentimes the knowing and the doing are two different things
   2. How are we to walk in love?
      1. Ephesians 4:32
         1. Forgiving each other as God in Christ also has forgiven you
            1. Again, the key

As God in Christ has forgiven

Unconditionally

“as also Christ loved you”

1. And gave Himself up for us
   1. A fragrant offering
      1. Leviticus 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
         1. Burnt offering
            1. He gave His life for us
         2. Meal offering
            1. His perfect life
         3. Peace offering
            1. He is our peace… the only Mediator
      2. All these “a soothing aroma”
         1. Sin offering
            1. II Corinthians 5:21
         2. Guilt offering
            1. Isaiah 53:6

The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all

* + 1. No soothing aroma in these sacrifices
       1. Bitterness… “my God my God why have You forsaken Me?”

1. What about me? How do I live in this world?
   1. John 13:1-16
      1. He loved them to the end
         1. How?
            1. He gave Himself up for them (us… Ephesians 5:2)
            2. Note Ephesians 5:25
            3. Note Ephesians 5:28-29
      2. John 13:3-4
         1. Why did He get up from the supper?
         2. What was going on?
            1. Jesus knew He was going to be

Scourged and crucified

Sweat great drops of blood

Be in agony in Spirit

* + 1. What are the disciples doing?
       1. Luke 22:24-27
          1. Why are they doing this?

Matthew 20:17-19

* + - * 1. Send in mom

Matthew 20:20-21

How often in our homes is not the argument over who is going to be in charge?

Husbands and wives argue over money… Why? Each one wants to spend it first… on what? Whatever they want at the time

Teenagers… Why do you argue with your parents? They can’t tell me what to do… Why not? Who do you think you are?

1. I want to ask all of us a question
   1. John 13:5… Do you think Jesus washed the feet of Judas?
      1. John 13:15
         1. I gave you an example that you should also do as I did to you

We are going celebrate the Lord’s Supper today. Is this celebration going to be a soothing aroma of self-sacrificing love or will we leave this place still concerned over who is the greatest in our family? Who is the greatest at work? Who is the greatest in our homes? Who is the greatest in our lives?

He gave Himself up for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God… as a fragrant aroma.